

Wright State University

CORE Scholar

Vital Signs

Boonshoft School of Medicine Newsletters

Spring 2000

Vital Signs, Spring 2000

Boonshoft School of Medicine

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med_vital_signs



Part of the [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Medical Specialties Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Boonshoft School of Medicine (2000). *Vital Signs, Spring 2000*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Boonshoft School of Medicine Newsletters at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vital Signs by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

VITAL SIGNS

SPRING 2000

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2



DEAN'S MESSAGE

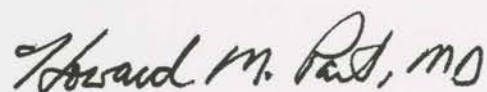


National opinion research tells us that the public does not understand what an "academic medical center" is. Preceding that phrase with an adjective like "community-based" surely does not clarify the issue. A national challenge is to help the general population better understand how medical schools benefit the nation and the communities they serve.

When our school was established in 1973, medical schools usually operated an adjoining university hospital. The term "community-based" is applied to a medical school that holds clinical training in nearby hospitals it does not own. We are grateful to the community visionaries for the innovative, "community-based" model developed and refined here.

Locally, the school partners with area hospitals and more than 20 health care organizations to provide needed health care to our community, to educate tomorrow's physicians, and to discover tomorrow's cures. The relationships are symbiotic and cost-effective, nurtured over more than a quarter of a century through partnerships large and small. We thank the community for its continued and faithful support, and we reaffirm our commitment to being a health resource for our community.

Sincerely,



Howard M. Part, M.D.
Dean

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Feature 2-5

Students Extraordinaire

Education 6-7

*Simulated Patients—
Almost the Real Thing*

Research 8-9

*Wright State's Brain Research
Investigates a Diversity of Structure and Function*

Community Service 10-11

*Reach Out Teaches Lasting Lessons
About the Value of Volunteerism*

Profile 12

Alumnus and Voluntary Faculty: Mark Marinella, M.D. ('93)

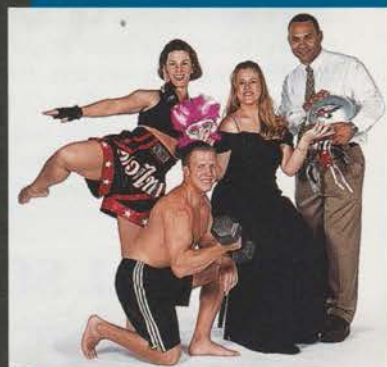
Alumni and Advancement 13-16

*Charter Class Updates
Alan McGee, M.D. ('82), Receives Outstanding Alumni Award
Boonshoft Endowed Chair Announced
P. George John Scholarship Formed*

Of Primary Interest 17-20

*Academy of Medicine Hosts Carl Reiner
First Lady Hope Taft Attends Psychiatry Grand Rounds
New Lectureship Endowed in Pharmacology/Toxicology
First Resident Research Forum Held
Family Medicine Nationally Ranked
Alpha Omega Alpha Holds Annual Initiation Ceremony
Dean Emeritus from Harvard Is Guest Lecturer
Match Day 2000
Division of Human Biology Moves*

New Faces 20



Editor's Note: Memorizing Latin names for anatomical parts. All night study sessions. Learning to use new tools, some high tech and others not. Understanding the disease state while teaching wellness. Gaining confidence in one's ability to communicate with others about intimate details of the human condition. All are current activities for our medical students. Because our students are talented, creative overachievers, they also have interests that give their lives balance and meaning even during the intensive four years they spend with us. Just check out this minute sampling.

MARVELL SCOTT,

Year III, calls his hometown, Wheaton, Illinois, "a peaceful place with no crime and a good place to get grounded." Since the age of five, Marvell has wanted to be "only three things: a pro football player, a journalist on television or maybe newspapers, and a doctor." He thought, then, that maybe he could do just one of those three if he worked hard. Instead he's doing all three—simultaneously.

As a high school senior, Marvell was nationally ranked as the second best running back in the country. He turned down scholarship offers from Harvard, Stanford, and a host of others to go to the University of Illinois. "I declared communications as a major," says Marvell, "but quite honestly my first priority was to play football. But I ran into a lot of problems."

An injury sidelined Marvell the first year, and a new coach moved him from the "top to the bottom" of the lineup. Marvell opted to find another institution. "It was really ironic because out of high school I had hundreds of letters coming in. Now, I'm recruiting myself and no one knows who I am. My 15 minutes of fame were gone." He transferred to the University of Delaware, a smaller institution, where he played collegiate football, graduating in 1995. Plagued by recurring injuries, his dreams of pro football seemed over.

Marvell returned to Illinois and got a job at a television station in Chicago and quickly progressed in the broadcasting field. In the summer of 1996, he was hired by

Dayton's Channel 2 as a sports broadcaster, a position he still holds, at least part-time, today. Meanwhile, he took science courses to bolster his test scores and began applying to medical schools. When he accepted an offer to attend Wright State, he agonized about quitting his job. "Everyone told me that you can't do both. It's too competitive. And it was hard. Your first few weeks of medical school, you're just running around trying to figure out which is your head and which is your foot. But now, amazingly enough, it's easy."

"My value system drives me in the right direction."

"I'm not motivated by money," says Marvell. "I have things that make me happy. Obviously I want to be a physician and in some way be affiliated with sports. I'm an athlete and a competitive person. As long as I stay along these value lines, I'll be fine. My value system drives me in the right direction."

That direction now includes playing running back for the Dayton Skyhawks, a professional arena football team now in its second year. Marvell was last year's leading rusher and scorer.



Photo by: Cindy Ratemann,
Miami Valley Hospital.

ENTS *E* XTRAORDINAIRE



(Clockwise from the top) "Andy" Gregg, Elizabeth Leman, Marvell Scott, and Heather Pfeffer.

Elizabeth Leman,

a current M.D./Ph.D. student, entered competitive sports early. She was involved in gymnastics as a youth and competed in springboard diving as an undergraduate at Columbia University in New York. After returning to her hometown, Cincinnati, she picked up Kenpo Karate while she worked as a lab tech at the University of Cincinnati. Now a brown belt holder, one of Elizabeth's goals is to finish her black belt by the time she finishes her Ph.D. in another year and a half. Hopefully, that goal won't interfere with defending her national title in kickboxing.



"It was hard for me to get over asking, 'Are you OK?'"

"I started kickboxing for the aerobic benefit," says Elizabeth.

"But the style of Muay Thai, which is from Thailand, is amazing for self defense, as well. I attended a camp and just seeing the caliber of the fighters there

was quite a motivation. A sparring partner actually volunteered me to participate in competition. But I thought, if I'm going to do this, I'm not going to get pounded. I'm going to train well enough so that I'll win. I spent 30 hours a week in training for four months. I knew

that if my opponent was better in terms of technique, what will win it for me was cardiovascular fitness. She was not going to outlast me." At first, she remembers, "It was hard for me to get over asking, 'Are you OK?' after each hit. I don't have the kill, kill, kill philosophy."

The 28th annual national kickboxing tournament was held last November. Elizabeth won her weight class and received the MVP (Most Valuable Player) award for the entire tournament, only the third woman to do so. She will begin training in July to defend her championship. "I'm in the best cardiovascular shape I've ever been in," Elizabeth notes. "This is very good for stress release, and I recommend it to my classmates."

"Being in the Ph.D. program is great because you can adjust your schedule," says Elizabeth, who is studying the distribution of potassium channels in the mammalian CNS under the direction of Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D. "I can run experiments whenever I need to and I'm usually done by 7:00 p.m. Some days I may have to stay in the lab until 3:00 a.m., but most evenings I can count on free time. From 7:00 until 9:00 a.m., I run and lift weights. In the afternoon, instead of lunch, I work on footwork or technique. Every evening, I train with guru Jeff Brown in Centerville. The weekends I let my body rest, spend time with family, and catch up on reading and lab work."

She is, she admits, "a high energy person."



Heather Pfeffer

(prior page) is instructing James Rosneck, Year II, during a clinical rotation. Heather will begin her OB/GYN residency at Indiana University this summer, and she is anticipating being able to study music at their nationally recognized program. Heather (far right) as one of the "Purduette Trio," an ensemble that traveled across the country.



Heather Pfeffer,

a current Year IV student, was a biomedical engineering major at Purdue University who discovered she wanted to be a physician in her freshman year. She was attracted to Wright State because of its small size and community setting. "I felt like I was going to get more attention and lots more focus on patient care here," she says.

She could just as easily have majored in the performing arts. "I started out studying piano when I was small," explains Heather. "I picked up the flute in elementary school, and at one point thought that I was going to major in music and play the flute for a living. In junior high I started singing and I really liked acting and drama as well. I've been studying classical music and opera intensely since then."

During her four years at Purdue, Heather was paid to be part of the "Purduette Trio," a big band and vocal jazz trio that traveled all over the country as ambassadors for the university. "One of my highlights was in San Francisco," remembers Heather. "Neil Armstrong and Eugene Cernan were there, and I brought them up on stage and sang, 'Fly Me to the Moon.'"

At Wright State, Heather has been a frequent performer at student talent shows, Martin Luther King Day, and 25th anniversary events for the medical school. She also has performed with the Grace United Methodist Church choir and various local arts forums. "I did a lot of training my first two years here and stayed active by performing and taking lessons," says Heather. "Then as I got into my clinical years, time got more constraining."

Her extraordinary musical talent was recognized by the Joseph Collins Foundation, which encourages cultural pursuits for medical students. The foundation provided grant funds to cover her third and fourth year expenses.

"I think it's reasonable as a physician to dedicate a portion of your life to what you love."

"Singing is really my true love and where my greatest musical talent is," explains Heather. "It's something I use to relax, and something that I enjoy sharing with other people. Singing is an expression of my soul and my heart all at the same time. First, I need to get through my residency in obstetrics and gynecology, but I'll stay involved in music in some way. I think it's reasonable as a physician to dedicate a portion of your life to what you love. I think it's going to make me a happier person and I'm going to be a better doctor, too."

MARVELL SCOTT (prior page) confers with fellow student Sherri Reynolds, Year III, in a clinical rotation in the perinatal health center at Miami Valley Hospital. Marvell is undecided about his specialty area but finds orthopedic surgery intriguing. Marvell (below) as #22 for the Dayton Skyhawks arena football team.

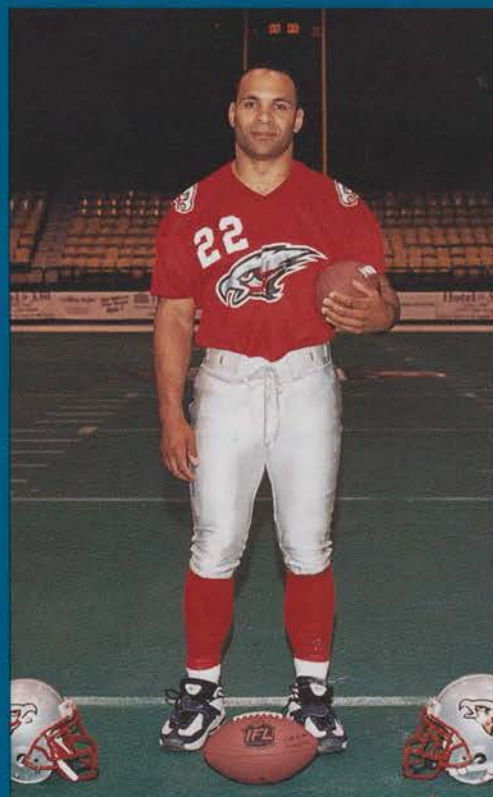


Photo by Robert Turner, Desire Modeling Agency.

Marion Anderson Gregg II,

(Andy to his friends) is a current Year 1 medical student and a graduate of Wright State. He played football, wrestling, track, and baseball in high school in North Lewisburg, Ohio. Inspired by his football coach, he became interested in power lifting and began competing in three lifts: the bench press, dead lift, and the squat. "I devote 80 percent of my time on main muscles and 20 percent on accessory muscles for specific lifts, three to four times a week for each lift." In a tri-state meet last year, Andy placed first in every division: juniors, open, and men's open and set two national and nine state records. His performance qualified him for the nationals and the World Cup.

"Body building is not so much an extracurricular activity, but a way of coping."

He chose not to go. "I'm a small-framed guy, and I have certain limitations in what I can do in that sport," says Andy. "With power lifting, you lift weight and weight only. The theory is that heavier weight and fewer repetitions increase muscle size and strength, and that lighter weight and more repetitions as well as cardio training does the opposite."

Instead he opted to compete in a National Body Building Compe-

Marion Anderson

Gregg II (prior page) spends much of his time in the Interdisciplinary Teaching Labs. He became interested in a medical career after a high school sports injury required orthopedic surgery. Andy (right) with one of his many trophies for body building and power weight lifting.



tition for drug-free athletes, where he placed third in the junior division and qualified for the nationals. "With body building, you see yourself more as an artist," he explains. "When you see a part of your body that is not in proportion, you try to add a little there. It's almost like sculpting."

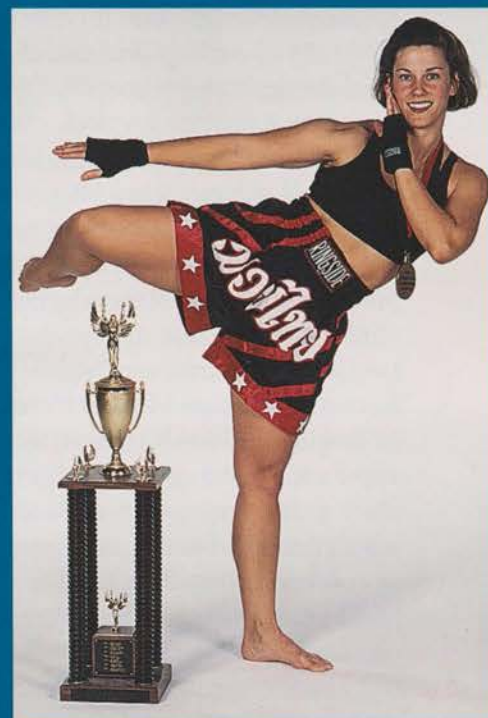
Currently in training for a body building competition in September, Andy emphasizes that his first priority is school and then his personal life. "I met a resident at one of the body building competitions who had competed all through medical school," says Andy. "I found that encouraging."

"Body building is not so much an extracurricular activity, but a way of coping," Andy explains. "It's relaxing; I vent frustration. I really like the feeling I get after training. The competitions are kind of a by-product. You see many people at these meets trying to prove something to themselves. It's nice to have goals, but the best part is training, even though it's very strenuous and takes a lot of discipline."

Editor's Note: Thanks to Meredith Mucha, Year I, for her assistance with this segment on her classmate.

— Judith Engle

Elizabeth Leman, an M.D./Ph.D. student (prior page) is at work in the laboratory where she is studying potassium channels in the mammalian CNS. Elizabeth plans to enter a neurology residency program and to conduct clinical research. Elizabeth (below) with her national kickboxing trophy.



Simulated Patients — *Almost the Real*

Basic science courses have traditionally been the focus of the first two years of medical school. From these courses medical students learn why and what, but where do they learn how? Can “bedside manner” be taught? Well, yes—in Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM).

An innovative part of Wright State’s first curriculum, ICM gives students the basics for obtaining a thorough medical history and conducting a comprehensive physical exam beginning their first week of school. The course includes the use of simulated patients, individuals trained to role-play a specific disease or condition, to teach focused history and physical exam.

Year I students learn interviewing skills and how to conduct clinical exams. They have faculty preceptors who assist them in the clinical settings, and students have two sessions to interview volunteers at Franciscan Medical Center. In Year II, students learn how to approach an undiagnosed patient. They attend ten lectures, each of which deals with a specific disease or condition. They then meet in small groups where three or four cases are presented and discussed.

The Simulated Patient Program was expanded last year to

increase the clinical experience for Year II students by presenting simulated patients one afternoon each quarter. The presenting symptoms of the simulated patients are coordinated with the lectures. During Year II, students have nine cases with an additional six during the summer. The expanded summer course is a bridge between Biennia I and II.

“I’m helping to develop a kind of partnership between the physician and patient, showing how they can work together to provide the best care possible.”

During a simulated patient session, students spend about 20 minutes with the patient and receive about five minutes of patient feedback. The simulated patients reinforce what students are learning in class. “Most students do a great job of listening to the patient,” says one simulated patient. “They really show genuine compassion for the patients and their problems.”

Students then go to another room and answer 10-12 questions about the content of the interview, including some basic science questions. This procedure provides students with feedback about their patient communication skills and about the content of the interview.

Both are important in patient assessment.

Melanie Miller, simulated patient coordinator and assessment skill trainer, was in the program as a “patient” for 19 years. She believes that the program provides a vital educational component for students and notes that “Our program is highly advanced, compared to some medical schools.

Our patients have been trained to give immediate feedback to students and to test skills in exams.”

Bruce Binder, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor and vice chair of

predoctoral medical education in family medicine, began directing the program in 1994–95. Under his leadership, the program has expanded to 37 trained individuals. They become involved in the program for many reasons, but they all are committed to helping medical students. “I’m helping to develop a kind of partnership between the physician and patient, showing how they can work together to provide the best care possible,” explains one of the simulated patients. “I like working with the medical students and I feel like I’m making a difference for health consumers,” says another.

The Simulated Patient Program has recently added a trainer for the

Thing

simulated patients. Jerome Borchers, a simulated patient for 15 years, is now training others to role-play and provide good feedback. Through observation, Mr. Borchers is able to assess if the patients are playing their roles correctly and if their feedback is provided appropriately to the students.

"Training is the key to developing this program," says Ms. Miller. "Our individuals are trained to mimic complicated health problems, such as blocked carotid arteries, and aid the student in grasping specific communication skills, which may enhance interaction with their patients in the future."

Simulated patients are asked to provide their first impression of the students' communication and technical skills—ranking them positive, negative, or neutral. They are also asked to provide feedback within a range from one to ten on specific items. A

goal of the program is for consistency of feedback, so that the "patient" response for a particular student question is the same response for all students.

Simulated patients are recruited through newspaper advertisements and word of mouth. The difficulty is having a big enough



Dr. Bruce Binder (center) oversees Stacey E. Hunt (Year II) as she examines a simulated patient.

pool of trained patients to match the cases. Most simulated patients are 20 to 60 years old. Dr. Binder hopes to expand the program with the addition of adolescent, pediatric, and geriatric simulated patients.

"Simulated patients help me feel more relaxed and give good feedback. Great patients, great experience."

In the future, the program may include videotaping the sessions. Students could then match their interactions with the feedback they received from the simulated patients and could view their progress from the beginning to the end of the year. Video of the encounters with the simulated

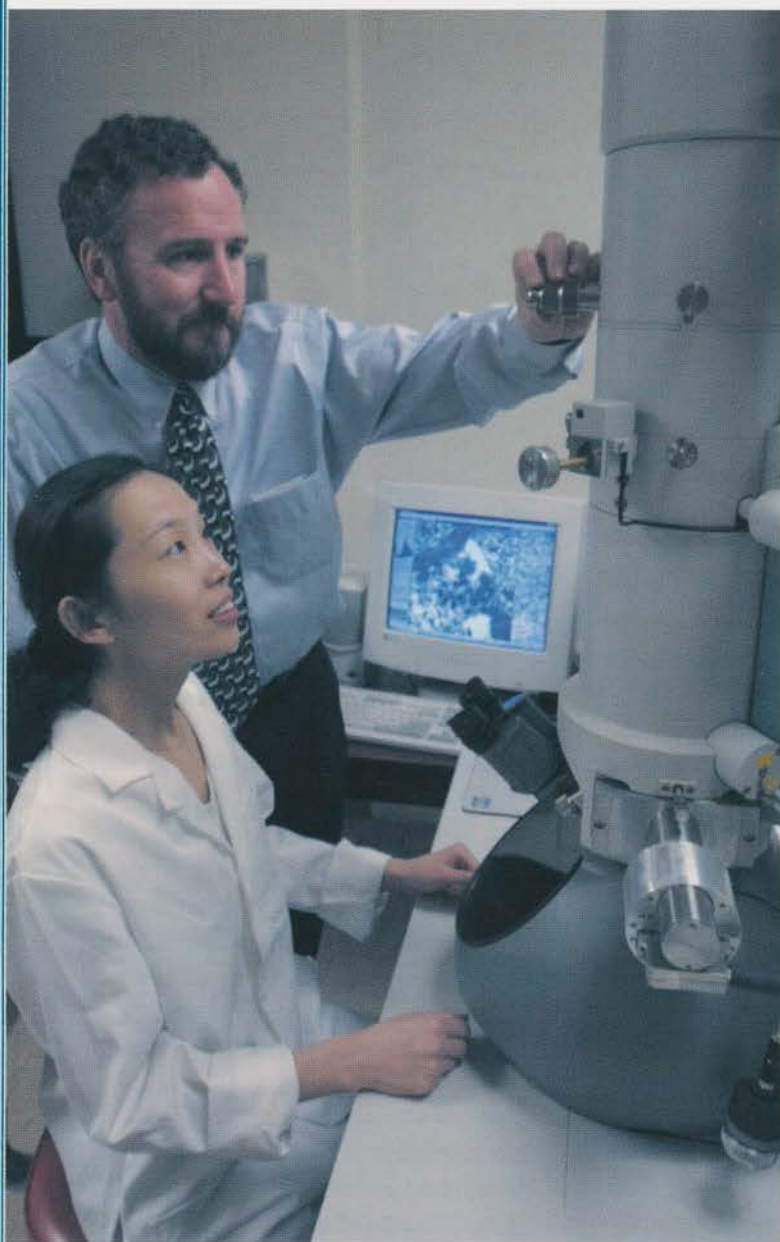
patients offers an effective learning tool in reviewing with the students their actual communication and exam skills.

For students, the Simulated Patient Program remains one of the most highly evaluated components

of the clinical medicine preparation. "Simulated patients are well prepared. Sometimes it seems like they really do have the illness or whatever symptoms they are presenting," says one student. Another echoes, "Simulated patients help me feel more relaxed and give good feedback. Great patients, great experience."

— Gwen Sloas

Wright State's **BRAIN RESEARCH** Investigates a Diversity of Structure and Function



Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D., and Zhihui Deng, Ph.D., use an electron microscope to examine structural details of a spinal-cord cell.

For scientists like Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., the imminent completion of the Human Genome Project is really just the beginning. As geneticists map the location of more than 100,000 individual genes encoded in the twists of human DNA, the work of other scientists around the world turns to figuring out precisely what each gene does. In the realm of brain research, that means exploring a “neuronal diversity” as varied and complex as genetic diversity itself, according to Dr. Fyffe. He expects to find as many new questions as answers. That is the excitement and challenge of brain research for him.

A case in point is TASK-1, one of a novel family of proteins involved in moving potassium in and out of brain cells. The gene that codes the expression of TASK-1 was isolated four years ago. Using this genetic tool and other experimental techniques, Dr. Fyffe and colleagues at Wright State University School of Medicine and Imperial College in London set about to determine TASK-1’s function. They reported recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that TASK-1 is found in the membrane of neurons called granule cells in the brain’s cerebellum. TASK-1 functions as a potassium channel in the cell membrane through which movement of electrically charged potassium ions helps to regulate the communication of nerve impulses from cell to cell.

When TASK-1 channels are open, the neuron tends to remain inactive. When TASK-1 channels are closed, the neuron becomes more excitable and more likely to send electrical impulses to surrounding cells. The opening/closing of TASK-1 channels is regulated by neurotransmitters, chemical signals passed between nerve cells, and by changes in pH in the local environment of the cells, such as occurs in ischemia.

“This suggests that TASK-1 is involved in regulating the resting potential of these nerve cells,” Dr. Fyffe says. “Modulating this type of potassium channel

might have clinical implications someday for the treatment of neurological problems such as epilepsy or ataxia that involve over-active or uncoordinated communication among neurons. We have much work ahead of us to fully characterize its function. There are dozens of different ion channels, just as there are innumerable types of nerve cells. It's likely that we will find other ion channels that do what TASK-1 does, which may be regulated differently."

No single laboratory or experimental approach can solve the technical problems presented by this diversity of structures and functions. According to Dr. Fyffe, brain research has evolved as an interdisciplinary effort that embraces fields as seemingly diverse as anatomy, molecular biology, and clinical science. Collaborations such as the one between Dayton and London are now common.

Collaborative and interactive scientific activities are closer to home, too. Several scientists at Wright State have established national reputations, and joint projects now enhance the use of resources and the promise of discovery.

Wright State University School of Medicine is in the process of establishing a major initiative for scientific research into multiple aspects of the cellular and molecular basis of nerve cell function in both health and disease. The initiative will be a focal point for programmatic development across departmental boundaries and will enhance the university's visibility at the community, state, and national levels.

"What starts off as a fundamental research question in basic science can suddenly appear to have direct clinical relevance."

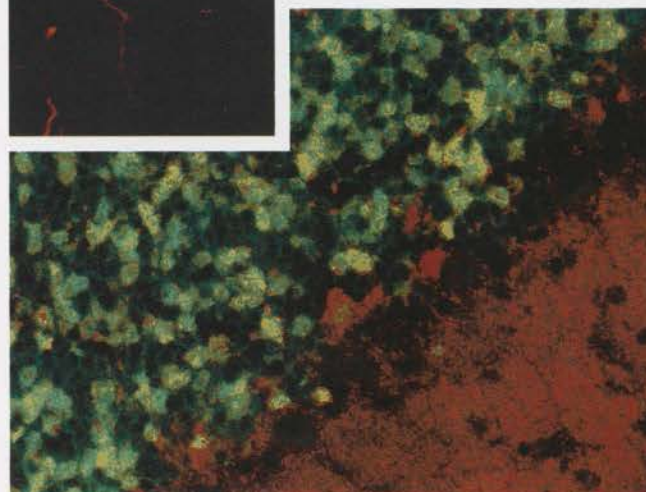
"It's a very exciting time now for brain research," Dr. Fyffe says. "We're looking at events on an amazing range of scales—from single molecules to clusters of molecules, from organelles to cells to systems of cells, from brains to whole organisms. We're looking at timespans that extend from microseconds to minutes, from hours to lifelong changes.

"What starts off as a fundamental research question in basic science can suddenly appear to have direct clinical relevance," he adds. "None of us knows where the questions will take us."

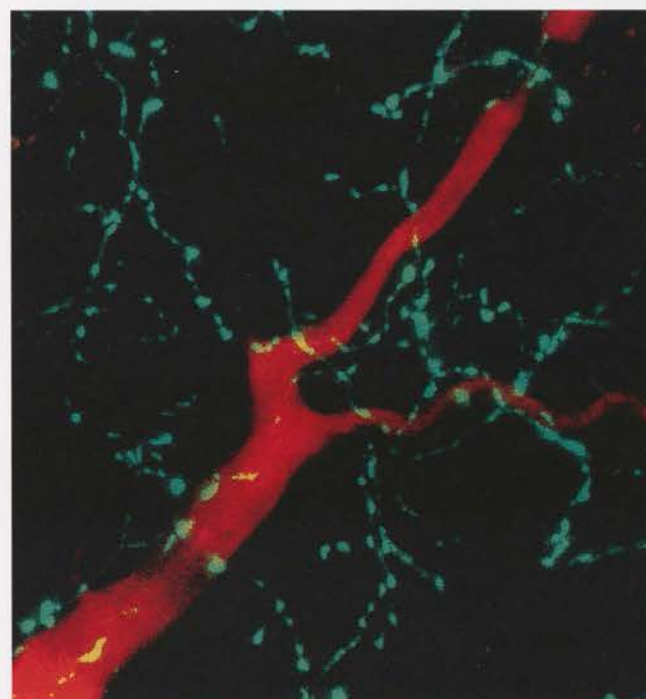
— Mark Willis



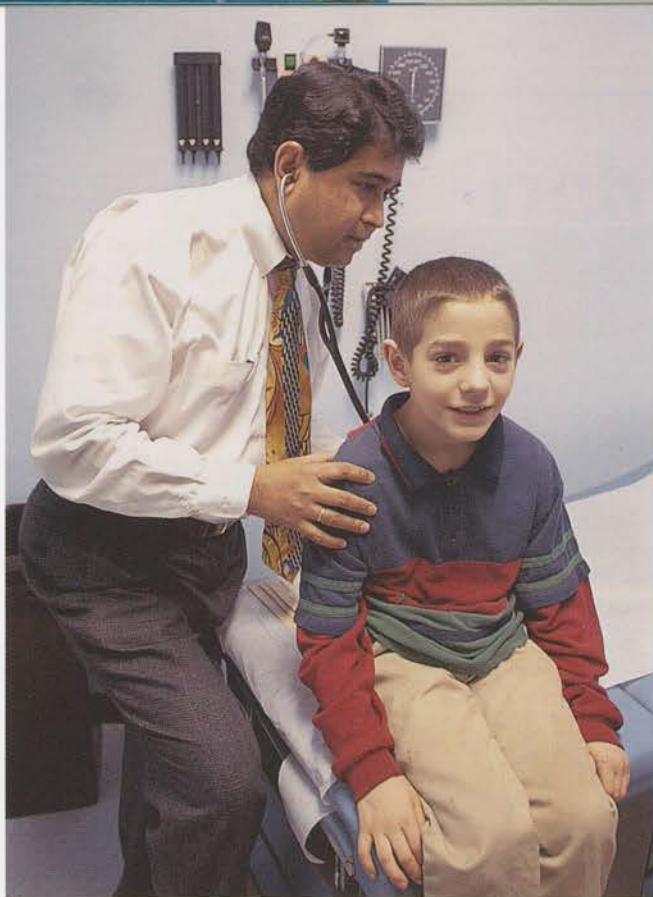
State-of-the-art confocal microscopy is used to illustrate the complex structures in a variety of nerve cells. Red fluorescent dye highlights the cell body and finely branched dendrites of a single motor nerve cell.



An immunofluorescent marker (green) indicates the presence of potassium channels in granule cells, the most abundant cell type in the human brain. Another marker (red) reveals a dense region of synaptic connections between axons and dendrites. Granule cells are approximately the same diameter as red blood cells or the finest human hairs.



Axons containing the neurotransmitter serotonin (stained green) swell as they make a synaptic connection with a dendrite (red) of a spinal-cord cell.



Dr. Syed Ahmed, director for the Reach Out of Montgomery County program, with a young patient. This program received national recognition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Dr. Ahmed was featured in its 1999 Annual Report.

There was standing room only at the free medical clinic sponsored by Reach Out of Montgomery County. Wright State medical student Dave Smith managed to find two chairs in the hallway and invited a patient to sit for a brief intake interview before seeing the doctor. She had come to Reach Out with an upper respiratory infection. Her patient history revealed a chronic problem. Six months earlier a doctor advised her that she may have cystic fibrosis, but she didn't follow-up with diagnostic tests because she had no health insurance.

The patient fit a common pattern seen at Reach Out. She had a job but no health insurance. She didn't have a primary care physician and, without Reach Out, she might have gone to a hospital emergency room for treatment. She would have waited until she was "really sick" before doing that, postponing needed medical care and possibly compounding a health problem.

"Reach Out is a bridge for patients like this, people who may be between jobs or health coverage," Smith observes. "The big take-home lesson from Reach Out—the uninsured are mostly people who are trying to get by and make a living on minimum-wage jobs that don't offer benefits."

Reach Out Teach About the Value Volunteering

Since its beginning in March 1995, Reach Out of Montgomery County has provided more than 5,000 free clinic visits to Dayton's working poor and uninsured population. Last year, 80 physicians and 130 others donated more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service at Reach Out's weekly evening clinics at the Dr. Charles R. Drew and East Dayton Health Centers. In addition to primary care and specialist doctors (nearly two-thirds are affiliated with Wright State as voluntary and full-time faculty or resident physicians), Reach Out volunteers include registered nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and Wright State medical students like Dave Smith and Joseph See.

For medical students, volunteering at Reach Out provides a bridge between what they learn in the classroom and what they will encounter later in their clinical training. Using skills acquired in Wright State's Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) course, they interview Reach Out patients and write up concise patient histories for attending physicians. Depending on the clinic's pace, Reach Out also can lead to unexpected learning experiences.

Joseph See was surprised recently when the attending physician sent him in to examine a patient, make a diagnosis, and report back. "You can do it," the attending physician told him confidently. "He threw me in the water and told me to swim," See remembers. "Even though I knew the attending physician would check me, it was my first patient. I'll never forget it."

"I really respect the doctors who take time out of their evening after a full day to volunteer at Reach Out. I definitely see myself doing that after graduation."

"There are many opportunities like Reach Out, if you're willing to get involved," Smith says. He

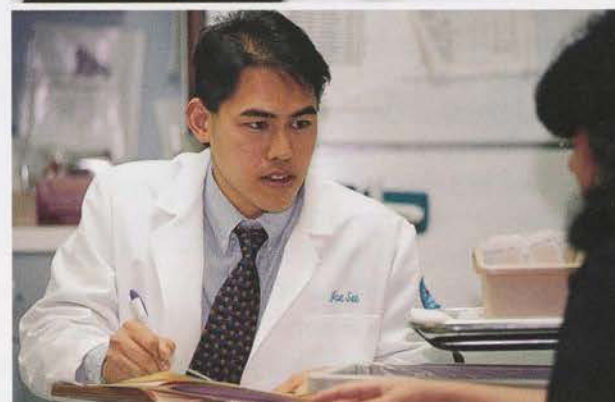
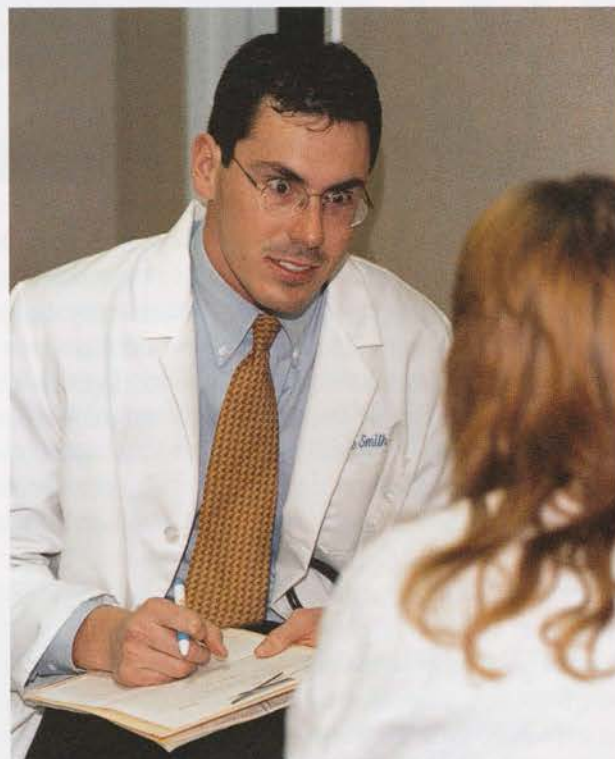
aches Lasting Lessons ue of erism

volunteered at a Chicago homeless shelter before medical school and chose Wright State for its reputation in community service. "I really respect the doctors who take time out of their evening after a full day to volunteer at Reach Out. I definitely see myself doing that after graduation. If you start off doing it as a medical student, it's a natural progression to keep on doing it."

That attitude holds much promise for the future, according to Syed Ahmed, M.D. In addition to volunteering as Reach Out's program director, he is associate professor and director of the Alliance for Research in Community Health (ARCH) in Wright State's Department of Family Medicine. "Introducing medical students to the needs of the kinds of patients at Reach Out is vital to addressing access issues for the working poor," Dr. Ahmed explains. "Research shows that medical students who have experience working with poor and underserved populations are more likely to do so when they enter practice."

Cultivating physician leadership for volunteerism, along with improving health care access for underserved people, were major goals for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's national Reach Out initiative. It provided start-up funds to Reach Out of Montgomery County and 29 other programs nationwide. In four years the programs enrolled 199,584 patients and recruited 11,252 volunteer physicians. An article published earlier this year in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concluded, "Programs such as Reach Out cannot solve the national problem of access to health care, but they can make a small but important impact on the number of uninsured and underserved persons without access to health care."

Reach Out of Montgomery County continues to thrive a year after the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding ended. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Medical Society, the Combined Health District of Montgomery County, and Wright State University School of Medicine, Reach Out receives funding now from numerous local sources.



Dave Smith (above) and Joseph See, both Year II students, are among many who volunteer for the Reach Out program.

"The community has bought into Reach Out and sees the value in it," Dr. Ahmed says. "We're always looking for funding, but our most valuable resource is all the time contributed by Reach Out volunteers."

Dr. Ahmed draws two lasting lessons from his own Reach Out experience. "The need for expanding access for uninsured and underserved people is greater now than ever before," he says, "and the volunteer commitment among physicians and others in Dayton is a significant resource that can be tapped to address that need."

— Mark Willis

Mark Marinella, M.D.

Mark A. Marinella, M.D. ('93), is proud to be a hospital-based general internist. He couldn't have chosen a better time to launch a career as a "hospitalist," a physician whose practice emphasizes providing care for hospitalized patients. The term was coined by Drs. Robert Wachter and Lee Goldman in a *New England Journal of Medicine* article in August of 1996. While some doctors have emphasized inpatient care for many years, there has been an explosive growth of such doctors since 1994, which was Dr. Marinella's second year as a resident at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

"For me, what comes first is taking care of my patients, hospitalized sick people. I practice hospital medicine every day and thoroughly enjoy what I do," he says. In association with South Dayton Acute Care Consultants, Dr. Marinella is based at Miami Valley Hospital. He also serves on the active staffs of Franciscan and Kettering Medical Centers.

Most of his patients are admitted to the hospital through the emergency department and referred to him by their own doctors or emergency physicians. In some cases, he'll consult on another physician's case, but more often he follows the patient from the time of admission, monitoring all aspects of patient care.

"I like to look at the big picture, to put everything in

perspective," he says. This attitude, along with a healthy dose of curiosity, inspired him to pursue other interests: research and writing. He has authored more than 100 publications including letters, case reports, and review and research articles, as well as a book chapter. He likes to draw on unusual hospital experiences to develop retrospective studies with a "new twist."

For example, when he noticed that more patients between the ages of 95 and 99 were being admitted to the hospital, he realized that very little was known about acute hospitalization of that population. He conducted a retrospective case series analysis of their reasons for hospitalization and coauthored an article about it that is accepted for publication in the *Southern Medical Journal*.

Last year, in a letter to the *New England Journal of Medicine* about a woman whose excessive craving for tomatoes led him to a diagnosis of pica, he coined the term "tomatophagia" to describe her condition. To his surprise, the story was picked up by Reuters Health News and widely disseminated through health web sites on the Internet.

Dr. Marinella also relishes his teaching opportunities as an assistant clinical professor in internal medicine. He's served as a faculty preceptor for the fourth year "hospitalist" rotation, an attending physician in the Internal



Photo by: Cindy Ratemann, Miami Valley Hospital

Mark Marinella, M.D., (center) with Steven Burdette, Year IV.

Medicine Residency Program, and a faculty member in Wright State's Advanced Internal Medicine Course. In the last two years, he's won teaching excellence awards from the Department of Internal Medicine, an Outstanding Voluntary Faculty Member award from the Miami Valley House Staff, and a Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award from the Wright State University chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.

"There's a big difference between working at a university hospital and practicing in a community-based teaching hospital," he says, noting that he prefers the diversity of his experiences in teaching and research as well as patient care. "It keeps me mentally stimulated. I'm not so entrenched in a private practice that I don't have time for teaching and research," he notes. "This is the ideal situation for me."

— Robin Suits

The Charter Class ('80): Update Continued

Gary Biehl, M.D., practices family medicine in Cincinnati, Ohio. Professionally, he has built a private practice "from ground zero," has been in a group practice, and has held administrative positions.

Dr. Biehl has positive memories of his time at Wright State. "I appreciated the faculty who diligently worked along with us to make the dream come true. I appreciated the welcome and acceptance the Greater Dayton community offered us and the privilege of patients revealing to us their deepest concerns and problems, trusting us to help them."

Concern for the status of his profession leads Dr. Biehl to give this advice to readers: "We have the potential to provide the greatest health care in the world, yet quality of care is being denied daily in the name of the almighty dollar. Stay healthy and work together to change the system. It's your health care and without it you have nothing."

To students, he cautions, "Be prepared to fight for the rights of your patients and your profession. If you're not prepared to do this, then move on and do something else. Don't lose sight of the art of medicine."

Dr. Biehl admits to being a "golf addict" and is a certified Professional Club Maker. He also collects golf and medical memorabilia. He and wife Anita are raising three children (Eric, Kelly, and Jason).



William A. Elder, M.D., is currently part of a family practice in Fredericktown, Ohio, a small town with a population of 3,000. In 1994, Dr. Elder was selected as the Ohio Family Doctor of the Year and in 1996 was a finalist for the National Family Doctor of the Year. Between his first and second years of medical school, Dr. Elder married Mary Ann Bowlus. The couple now has three children.

The Elder family has traveled together to London and all across America. Elizabeth, the oldest, is a senior in high school and wants to follow in her father's footsteps to become a doctor. Laura is a high school sophomore interested in teaching and science. Tim, a seventh grader, seems destined to become either a professional basketball player or a computer genius.

Dr. Elder advises School of Medicine students to "study hard, but enjoy life." For our readers, he sends this message: "Pass on your knowledge to the next generation."



Richard H. Pearl, M.D., is a professor of surgery and pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and surgeon-in-chief at the Children's Hospital of Illinois in Peoria. Prior to moving to Illinois, Dr. Pearl practiced pediatric surgery in Toronto and spent seven

months overseas during Desert Storm as commander of the forward surgical team and deputy commander for clinical services of the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

He and his wife Lauretta (a pediatric nurse practitioner) have had the pleasure of seeing Rick's two daughters, Amy and Sara, grow up to become adults, and they have recently adopted a baby girl, Emily, who was born on February 23, 2000. Dr. Pearl's decision to become a pediatric surgeon was heavily influenced by the teaching, guidance, and examples of Wright State faculty, in particular Drs. Richard Reiling, Alan Shafer, and Charles Goodwin.

To medical students he offers, "I would suggest finding teachers who you care about (and in turn care about you). This becomes key in making well thought out career choices and, to a large extent, will determine your future."

SOM Recognizes Outstanding Alumnus Alan McGee



Dr. Alan McGee ('82), received the first School of Medicine Outstanding Alumni Award.

On the morning of Saturday, February 12, alumni and friends of Wright State University attended the Awards Brunch in the elegant setting of the Ervin J. Nutter Center's Berry Room. As part of Wright State University's Homecoming 2000 celebration, the WSU Alumni Association recognized exceptional alumni. The School of Medicine proudly presented its first Outstanding Alumni Award to Alan

McGee, M.D. ('82), for his significant contributions to his communities.

Dr. McGee has a long and dedicated history with Wright State University and the School of Medicine. As an undergraduate student working toward his B.S. in chemistry, he excelled in his classes while also finding the time to play collegiate basketball for the

Wright State Raiders. He then went on to attend the School of Medicine and graduated with honors in 1982. Looking back on his medical education, McGee feels, "Being at Wright State gave me an opportunity to think more independently and out of the box toward practicing medicine." Since graduating from the school, he has served on the WSU Foundation Board of Trustees and has appeared in television and print advertisements for the university. The School of Medicine continues to be a top priority for Dr. McGee's time and philanthropy.

Dr. McGee, a native and resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is currently president of Orthopedics Northeast (ONE), and an associate of SpineONE, a division of ONE, where he is an integral part of a specialized team dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of spinal disorders. He remains active in his community as the president of the Ft. Wayne Black Medical and Dental Association. In addition, he serves on the boards of Q.C. Onics, Inc., and the Midwest Alliance for Health Education.

The father of three children, Dr. McGee enjoys traveling, reading, and playing sports of all kinds.

— Rob Boley

Classes of '80, '85, '90, and '95 October 6-7, 2000



Planning is still underway for the Reunion 2000 Weekend, so please keep checking the School of Medicine web site at www.med.wright.edu/som/alumdev/reunion.html for more details! Reunion classes, be on the lookout for your Reunion 2000 Newsletter.



Calling All Alumni

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of our charter class, *Vital Signs* will publish a new Class Notes section for all alumni beginning with the fall issue.

Tell Us.

We want to know more about you. Send us your news items—honors, awards, career highlights, volunteer work, marriages, and births.

Story Idea?

Tell us what you would like to see in *Vital Signs* about yourself, a fellow alum, or a topic of interest.

Take just a moment to complete this form (or visit www.med.wright.edu/som/alumdev/classnotes.html for an online form).

Alumni Update

Graduation year:		Tell us about your career, honors, awards, publications, etc.
Name:		
Home address:		
City:		
State:	Zip:	
Home phone w/area code:		
Specialty:		
Practice/Hospital:		
City:		
State:	Zip:	Do you have a story idea for <i>Vital Signs</i> ? Tell us about it.
E-mail address:		
Spouse's name and occupation:		
Children's names and ages:		

Return to:

Judi Engle, Editor, *Vital Signs*, Wright State University School of Medicine, Office of Public Relations, P. O. Box 927, Dayton, OH 45401-0927, Telephone: (937) 775-2951; Fax (937) 775-3366; E-mail: judith.engle@wright.edu

Richard J. Schuster, M.D.: Boonshoft Endowed Chair



Richard J. Schuster, M.D., associate clinical professor of medicine since 1996, was recently named as the first occupant of the Boonshoft Endowed Chair

in Health Systems Management and director of a new division in the Department of Community Health.

According to Dr. Schuster, "My whole career has served as the basis for this position." He trained in a primary care residency and continued with a private internal medicine group practice for 15 years. Most recently, he served as director of Kettering Medical Center's Sycamore Primary Care Center, where he honed his organizational, educational, healthcare delivery, and economics skills. He continues, "My preparation was further enhanced by a master's degree in medical management at Tulane University," a degree, specialized for physicians, that covers business administration coupled with public health and preventive medicine.

Oscar Boonshoft, local philanthropist and School of Medicine friend, endowed the chair in health systems management with a \$2.5 million gift. Boonshoft's generosity stems from his desire to simplify the process and delivery of modern health care and to develop efficient and accessible health care for all. Born and raised in the Bronx in

New York City, Boonshoft obtained his mechanical engineering degree from Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey and joined the Army Air Corps in 1939. He retired from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1970 as a production engineer. A great supporter of the Miami Valley community, he has recently contributed to many community efforts including the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and the Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute.

With the multitude of changes in today's medical world, the Division of Health Systems Management will help others address issues of high costs and demands for quality and access. "Our goals are to educate medical students, residents, and practicing physicians in management of the health care enterprise and to prepare them for leadership roles in managing and running healthcare organizations. The division will advance issues in healthcare public policy; specifically, we wish to promote high quality and access to healthcare for everyone in America."

In addition to education, the division will meet a variety of other community needs in Ohio and beyond. "We hope to provide service to the community by gaining understanding about the processes of healthcare—including health economics," says Dr. Schuster. "Finally, as an academic institution, we expect to do scholarly work to identify and promote national models in health systems management."

P. George John, M.D., Retires



When Dr. P. George John, M.D., recently retired, the impact was felt by medical students and the entire School of Medicine community. For more than two decades,

Dr. John, with dual appointments in family medicine and pediatrics, helped medical students become caring physicians and extended the school's community mission.

To acknowledge his work, the School of Medicine established a new family medicine scholarship in Dr. John's honor. After an official announcement of the scholarship and its goals, support from faculty, staff, alumni, and friends was overwhelming. Within a few short months, the P. George John, M.D. Scholarship reached its endowment goal.

Dr. John has dedicated his career to serving medically underserved populations and has taken medical students on several medical missions to his native India. He has also participated in many committees and service projects to meet the needs of the Miami Valley and beyond. With all of these activities, he still maintained an extremely busy clinical practice throughout his career. Although officially retired, Dr. John continues to serve the School of Medicine in a very active voluntary capacity.

For more information about the P. George John, M.D., Endowed Scholarship, please call the Office of Advancement at (937) 775-2972.

— Rob Boley

OF PRIMARY INTEREST

Academy of Medicine Hosts Carl Reiner

The Wright State University Academy of Medicine held its annual dinner at the Five Seasons Country Club on April 18. Featured guest lecturer was Hollywood legend Carl Reiner, who entertained one of the largest gatherings of the Academy. "This year," explains Robert Copeland, director of advancement, "we wanted to make the annual dinner a memorable event and increase our membership in the Academy."

Walter Reiling, M.D., chair of the executive committee and clinical professor of surgery, has been a long-term supporter of the Academy, which focuses its fundraising efforts on academic scholarships and low-interest loans for Wright State's medical students.

"The Academy's founders recognized that it would take years for a young medical school like Wright State to build a philanthropic endowment," says Dr. Reiling. "They wanted to make a difference right away, so they started a revolving loan fund." The fund has generated nearly \$1.5 million in low-interest loans over the past 15 years, saving medical students more than \$500,000 in additional debt burden.

The Academy honored two departing members of its board of trustees, Drs. Emil Peterson and James Peoples. Two new trustee members—Drs. Glenn Hamilton and Stephen House—were unanimously elected.

The annual dinner met both of its goals. The evening was both enjoyable and memorable and a total of 69 new members joined the Academy, an increase of 16.5 percent over last year's membership.

For more information about the Academy, call the Advancement Office at (937) 775-2972.



The many faces of Carl Reiner, guest lecturer for the Academy of Medicine.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

Ohio's first lady, Hope Taft, recently joined faculty and residents of the Department of Psychiatry to discuss effective ways to reduce the use of both legal and illegal drugs by youth. The subject of her talk for the Grand Rounds at Good Samaritan Hospital was "Adolescent Substance Abuse."



Hope Taft (L) converses with Jerry Kay, M.D., professor and chair of psychiatry, at Grand Rounds in April.

New Lectureship Endowed in Pharmacology and Toxicology



Earl H. Morris, M.D., is namesake for new lectureship.

Mariana Morris, Ph.D., professor and chair of pharmacology and toxicology, hosted the Earl H. Morris Inaugural Lectureship and Dedication Ceremony in honor of her grandfather on May 26. The annual lecture series has been endowed by Dr. Earl Morris's son and daughter-in-law, Herbert C. and Marion Danforth Morris.

The guest lecturer was Suzanne Oparil, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Oparil is an active investigator, a prolific writer in clinical cardiology and hypertension, and past president of both the American Heart Association and the American Federation of Clinical Research.

The program included a presentation by Brian Hackett, executive director of the Montgomery County Historical Society, and a display of medical instruments from the 19th century provided by the Fordham Health Sciences Library.

Dr. Earl H. Morris was born in Bellbrook, Ohio, in 1872. He attended Bellbrook High School, Antioch College, and the University of Michigan. He received his M.D. from the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1903. After graduation, he set up practice in Zimmerman, Ohio, a town that has since become part of suburban Dayton, just a few miles from Wright State University. After several years, he moved his office to downtown Dayton, at the corner of Fifth and Wilkinson Streets. In 1923, he moved his office to the new Harries Building at First and Main Streets. From this office, he practiced medicine until 1955, and he received patients at his home until his death in 1957. Dr. Morris was honored by the Montgomery County and Ohio State Medical Societies in 1954 for 50 years of medical practice.

Resident Research Forum Held

The School of Medicine and the Dayton Area Graduate Medical Education Consortium (DAGMEC) held the first Resident Research Forum in March. Twenty-one residents displayed 23 posters.

Designed to encourage the exchange of scholarship and highlight studies of resident physicians, the forum included a poster exhibit, reception, and awards ceremony. Pfizer, Inc., provided an educational grant for cash prizes.

Family Medicine Nationally Ranked

The American Academy of Family Physicians recently recognized Wright State University School of Medicine, one of seven medical schools so honored, for its "exceptional role advocating the specialty of family practice."

Medical schools graduating a three-year average of 30 percent or more into first-year positions in family practice residency programs received the Gold Award. Wright State graduated 32.4 percent, third highest of the seven given the award. Wright State has won this award for three consecutive years.

Alpha Omega Alpha

The 29th Annual Initiation Ceremonies of the Epsilon Chapter of Ohio of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society was held on April 4 at the Country Club of the North. The following 13 students were inducted into AOA that evening:

Sean J. Barnett
Rachel E. Brown
Matthew E. Crowe
Christopher J. Darus
Jacob P. Deerhake
Mark S. Driver
Michael A. Herbenick
Mary E. Hooyenga
Heather L. Pfeffer
Melissa A. Schnell
Kristina J. Thompson
Chad A. Zender
Kathleen M. Zielinski

Two faculty members also were inducted—David G. Bienenfeld, M.D., and John D. Bullock, M.D. Resident initiates



Epsilon Chapter of Ohio Alpha Omega Alpha initiates for 2000.

include Brian B. Dursteler, M.D., Dinesh Khanna, M.D., and Elissa A. Whittenburg, M.D.

The AOA Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award, presented annually to recognize a community physician who has contributed with distinction to the education and training of clinical students at WSU, was

presented to Mark Marinella, M.D.

E. Richard Stiehm, M.D., professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Immunology/Allergy/Rheumatology, UCLA, gave a presentation on “Mothers, Babies, and AIDS: From Africa to Los Angeles.”

Guest Lecturer Addresses Researchers



Dean Emeritus Daniel Tosteson (L) with Peter Lauf, M.D.

Daniel Tosteson, M.D., dean emeritus of Harvard Medical School and president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, was the guest lecturer at the Central Research Forum in February. His presentation, “Medicine, Science, and Society,” emphasized that medical education must change with societal changes, “to develop physicians who practice ‘science in action’ rather than trying to apply learned formulas to clinical situations.” Peter K. Lauf, M.D., professor and chair of Physiology and Biophysics, hosted the visit.

OF PRIMARY INTEREST

New Faces



Gary L. Anderson, D.O.
Assistant
Professor, Surgery
D.O.: University of

Osteopathic Medicine and
Health Sciences, College of
Osteopathic Medicine and
Surgery

Residency: Youngstown
Osteopathic Hospital (general
surgery)

Residency: Grandview
Hospital (general surgery)

Fellowship: University of
Cincinnati College of Medicine
(trauma/critical care)



Palur G. Gunasekar, Ph.D.
Assistant
Professor,
Pharmacology &

Toxicology

Ph.D.: University of Madras,
India



Richard J. Schuster, M.D.
Boonshoft
Endowed Chair in
Health Systems

Management in Community
Health

M.D.: University of Rochester

Residency: University of
Rochester (internal medicine)



Dean Howard Part (L) helps Sean Barnett announce
his residency placement for family and friends.



Jake Deerhake anticipated
his first choice for residency.

Match Day 2000

According to Match Day results, 95 percent of Wright State's graduating M.D.s (compared to 86 percent nationally) received either their first, second, or third choices in the match, and 31 percent will remain in the Dayton area for their residency training.

Fifty-five of 78 Wright State graduates (71 percent) will enter primary care residencies in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine/pediatrics. Nationally, 51 percent of this year's 13,485 graduates will enter primary care residencies, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.



Unit Moves to Research Park

The Division of Human Biology, the home for the Fels Longitudinal Study, is moving from Yellow Springs to the Miami Valley Research Park. The study is the world's largest and longest-running study of human growth and body composition, originally established in 1929. Faculty and data analysts moved in early February, and the data collection operations and other projects will move later this year. The move will give the nationally recognized group expanded facilities to continue research on body composition, obesity, and other risk factors for heart disease.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Convocation

August 6, 2000
3:00 P.M.
Student Union
Multipurpose Room
For more
information, contact:
(937) 775-2934

First Day of Class for Year I and Year II

August 14, 2000

Faculty Meeting

September 21, 2000
4:30 P.M.
035 Medical
Sciences
For more
information, contact:
(937) 775-3010

Reunion Celebration

October 6-7, 2000
Reunion Weekend,
Classes of
'80,'85,'90,'95
CME Program
For more
information, contact:
(937) 775-2972

Pruett Recognition Ceremony

October 7, 2000
For more
information, contact:
(937) 775-2972

About the Covers:

(Front)

Wright State brain researchers generate state-of-the-art confocal microscope images to illustrate the complex structures of nerve cells. In this image, red florescent dye highlights the cell body and finely branched dendrites of a single motor neuron. The researchers have published similar high-resolution images on the covers of the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, the *Journal of Physiology*, and the *Journal of Comparative Neurology* (see article, page 8-9).

(Back)

Along with other students, staff, and faculty, Year II medical student Teddrick Dunson donated blood during the student Annual Bone Marrow Screening and Blood Donation Day.

Vital Signs is published three times a year for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Wright State University School of Medicine.

Direct all correspondence to:

Editor, *Vital Signs*
Wright State University
School of Medicine
Office of Public Relations
P. O. Box 927
Dayton, OH 45401-0927
Fax: (937) 775-3366
Phone: (937) 775-2951
E-mail: som_pr@wright.edu
<http://www.med.wright.edu>

Editorial Planning Group and Contributing Authors

Robert Boley
Judith Engle
Gwen Sloas
Robin Suits
Deborah Vetter
Mark Willis

Advisory Group

Judith Engle
Paul Carlson, Ph.D.
Mark Clasen, M.D., Ph.D.
Jerald Kay, M.D.
Neal Rote Jr., Ph.D.
Barbara Schuster, M.D.

Managing Editor

Judith Engle

Copy Editor

Robin Suits

Graphic Design

Debbie Deichler

Cover Design

Nancy Harker

Photography Coordinator

Nancy Harker

Photography

Scott Kissell

© 2000 Wright State University
School of Medicine



Printed on recycled paper



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY



School of Medicine
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DAYTON, OH 45401
PERMIT NO. 551